



CHRIS Rainbow has literally been my home since my parents do not want to have anything to do with me. The staff has become my adoptive family. Rainbow has helped me in so many ways, such as controlling my anger. The staff is always around to listen and give me helpful advice. They taught me job search skills and how to write a resume. I am learning that life in general is a lesson that is taught daily, from something as small as why you wash your hands, to something bigger like read documents word for word before you sign. Rainbow isn't just another shelter, it is home to many kids like me.

"Emma", Rainbow



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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Rainbow Program

The CHRIS Rainbow Program provides a safe and supportive residence for homeless and runaway gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Rainbow is a transitional living life skills program for homeless and runaway sexual minority youth that provides both services and referrals. Life skills training is provided as youth are connected with a variety of community resources like counseling, medical and legal services and volunteer opportunities.

Research indicates that up to 56% of runaway and homeless youth self-identify as LGBTQ. The Rainbow Program gives these young people a place to live where they can learn self acceptance and be open about who they are without fear or retribution. In this positive environment, youth gain the self-confidence to make it on their own. The Rainbow Program functions like a community. With the help of staff, youth learn life skills and begin to learn to balance individual responsibility while developing a sense of community.

Rainbow residents must follow certain protocol and meet the following expectations:

- Youth have an intake session upon entering the program.
- Residents are required to abide by program rules, treat each other and themselves with respect, and be able to function in a minimally supervised environment.
- Youth are required to obtain full or part-time work, complete high school or obtain their GED.
- Residents must participate in a minimum of two individually tailored life skills training sessions each week.
- Homeless or displaced youth between the ages of 17 and 21 can reside at the Rainbow Program.

